

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace original paragraph 0041 with the following amended paragraph 0041.

[0041] The circumferentially extending ring 50 is manufactured and cured separate from the tire. The primary characteristics of the ring 50 are strength and light weight. The ring 50 is a composite of reinforcing cord 52 embedded in a matrix 54. The matrix 54 may be any type of thermoplastic, thermoelastic, or plasticized elastomer. One embodiment is aramide cords embedded in polyurethane or other plastic made by filling a U-shaped plastic element with an epoxy soaked cord. Another alternative is to vulcanize steel or fabric cords in elastomer in a U-shaped mold. To provide secondary features to the tire, the matrix 54 may be compounded in such a manner as to provide reflective or fluorescent properties to the ring 50. When set into the groove 48 of the tire 10, the reflective or fluorescent ring 50 provides an additional safety feature to the tire 10.